

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 have been examined on their merits.

Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to recite that a virtual identity in a signaling multiframe is used only when a remote unit has a message(s) to send, and the virtual identity is released thereafter. Entry and consideration of the amendment to claims 1 and 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 1-3, 7-10, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Cheng (U.S. Patent No. 5,563,883). Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-3, 7-10, 14 and 15 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Cheng fails to teach or suggest at least a signaling multiframe is used between a fixed unit and a plurality of remote units, wherein a remote unit only uses a virtual identity in the signaling multiframe when sending a message and releases the virtual identity after the message transmission is complete, as recited in claim 1. For example, Cheng discloses that the “number of remote terminals assigned to each of the RD channel is to be evenly distributed according to the traffic demand” and when there is “identical traffic requirements from all users, the number of remote terminals assigned to each of the RD channel will be equal.” *See* col. 7, lines 1-5 of Cheng. Furthermore, Cheng states that a central controller either sends a command to a specific remote terminal or solicits requests from the remote terminals assigned to the forward signaling data channel via a general poll and the remote terminals respond to the controller’s poll. *See* col.

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3, lines 55-59 of Cheng. The disclosure of Cheng that the remote terminals respond to requests for service initiated by a central controller is contrary to the invention recited in claim 1, which has remote terminals that use a virtual identity only when a message transmission is necessary, and release the virtual identity thereafter. In Cheng's system, it appears that the remote terminals have to remain attached to their assigned channel (or virtual identity as alleged by the Patent Office) in order to respond to the polling of the central controller. In sum, Cheng fails to teach or suggest the usage of a virtual identity only for the duration of a message transmission and release of the virtual identity thereafter.

Based on the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that Cheng fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed elements as arranged in claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable, and further submits that claims 2, 3 and 7 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-3 and 7.

With respect to independent claim 8, Applicant submits that claim 8 is allowable for at least reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 8 is allowable, and further submits that claims 9, 10, 14 and 15 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 8. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the § 102(b) rejection of claims 8-10, 14 and 15.

2. Claims 4-6, 11-13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Graunel *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,573,206). Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 4-6, 11-13, 16 and 17 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claims 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Graunel *et al.* Since claims 4-6 depend upon claim 1 and since Graunel *et al.* does not cure the deficient teachings of Cheng with respect to the use and release of virtual identities in a signaling multiframe, Applicant submits that claims 4-6 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 11-13, 16 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng in view of Graunel *et al.* Since claims 11-13, 16 and 17 depend upon claim 8 and since Graunel *et al.* does not cure the deficient teachings of Cheng with respect to the use and release of virtual identities in a signaling multiframe, Applicant submits that claims 11-13, 16 and 17 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 11-13, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

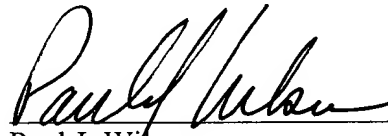
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